

AKIRA

28

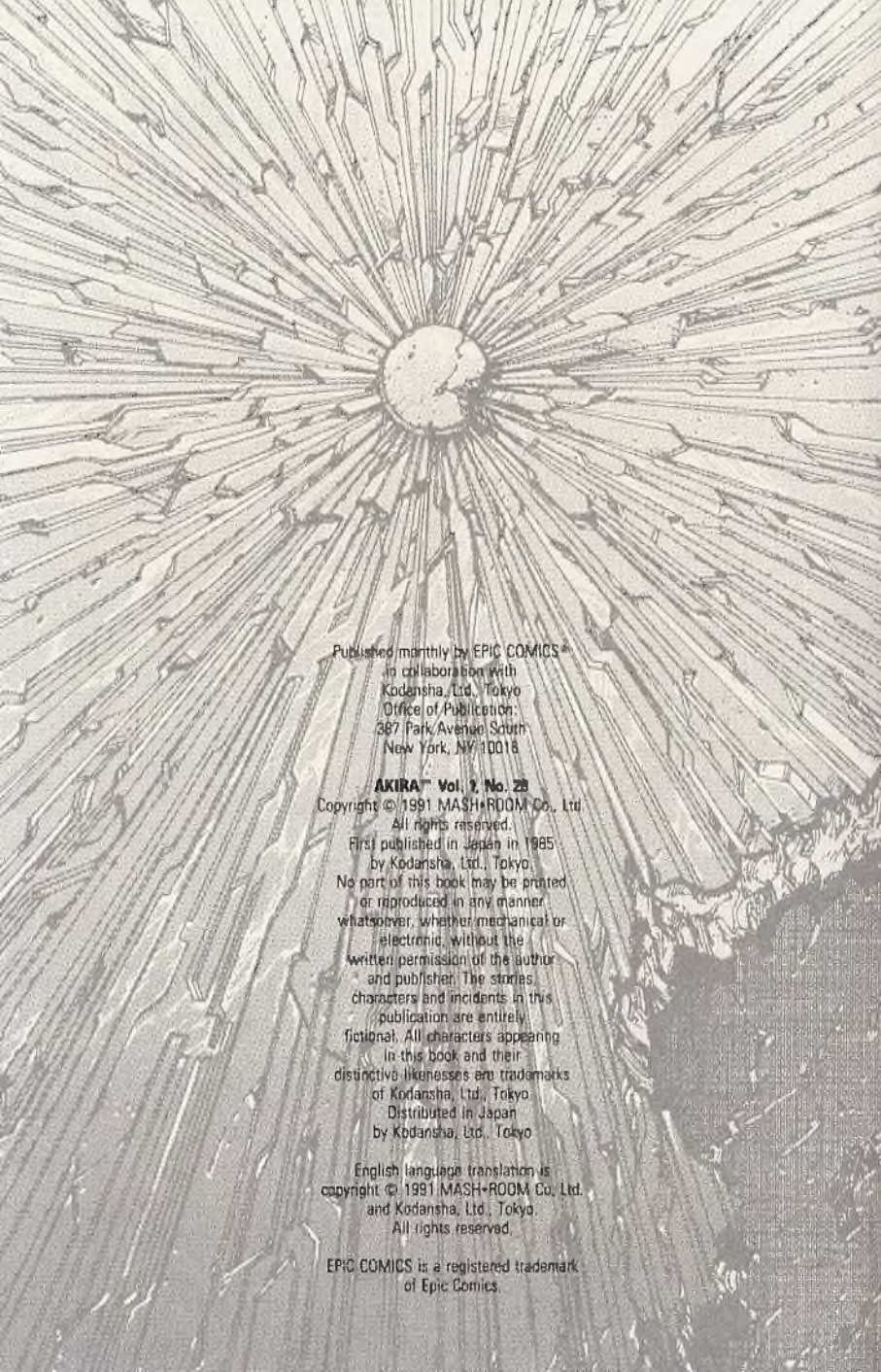
TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 28

SWEPT AWAY

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu** and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend but now his greatest enemy.

Tetsuo was crippled by a laser blast from the military satellite SOL, which the **Colonel** controlled, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate himself a prosthetic left arm.

Akira is the most powerful of the children. He was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years

ago after he started the third world war with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**, and shortly thereafter he responded to emotional trauma by devastating **Neo-Tokyo**. A state of emergency now exists in Japan, and new powers and allegiances have arisen.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the Empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs to develop psychic abilities in certain of his subjects.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada** but the spy decides to separate from his would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded and living in hiding. He is determined to kill **Tetsuo**, who he believes could become another **Akira**. At the same



Tetsuo



Akira



Kay



The Colonel

time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so he can challenge Akira's awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend, **Kai**, who are using a "caretaker robot" and a motorcycle "borrowed" from their old enemy, **Joker** of the **Clown Gang**, to transport the wounded **Kay** and **Chiyoko**. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay** who is a powerful psychic medium.

Aboard an American naval vessel an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, which they code-name **Juvenile-A**. Their data indicates that the effect of Akira's power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of Tetsuo's) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the U.S. government has formed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the young, dedicated soldiers are sure to

be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. **Tetsuo** pays a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, he destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then, he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile-A** before disappearing in a burst of telekinetic energy which seriously injures one of them.

Kaneda and **Kai** safely reach Lady Miyako's shrine, where the great mystic heals **Kay**. **Joker** is outraged to find out **Kaneda** and **Kai** have totaled one of his bikes and is taking payment out of their hides. They remind him that all three have put their differences behind them to unite against **Tetsuo**.

To inspire their followers, the leaders of the **Great Tokyo Empire** hold a grand convocation, half rock concert and half religious ceremony. Outside the stadium where this occurs, **Ryu** prevents **Lt. Yamada** from firing a biochemical weapon which could destroy **Akira**...and take most of the population of **Neo-Tokyo** with him.

Tetsuo uses his powers to transport himself to the moon, where he creates a massive crater. In the ensuing earthbound seismic mayhem, **Ryu** is buried under a falling building.



Chiyoko



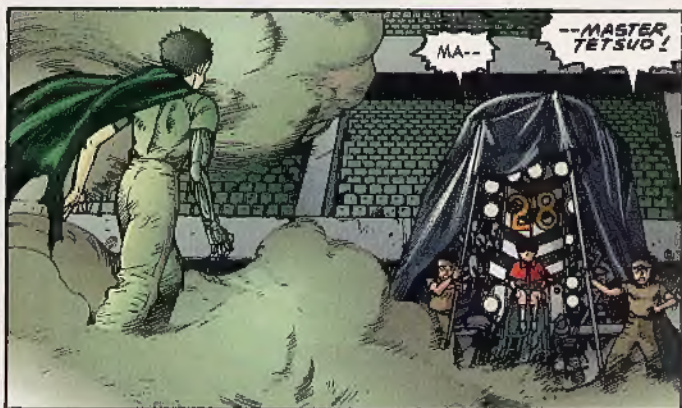
Kaori

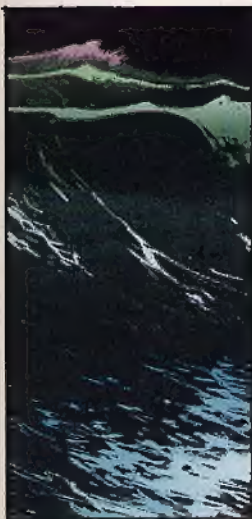


Kai



Lt. Yamada





NUMBER 41
HAS VIRTUALLY
DESTROYED THE
MOON.



HIS GROWTH HAS BEEN
SO RAPID, WE CAN'T
EXPECT THE PERIOD
OF STABILITY
TO LAST.



IT'S DANGEROUS
TO EXPEND THAT
MUCH ENERGY
AT ONCE.



I DIDN'T THINK
HE WOULD DEVELOP
SO FAST.



WE'VE
NO TIME TO
LOSE.



I WISH WE COULD
TAKE THE PRECAUTION
OF WAITING UNTIL
WE ARE DOUBLY
CERTAIN...

...BUT WE
HAVEN'T THAT
LUXURY.



BUT KAY
HASN'T...



YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST
CONSIDER HOW ANOTHER SUCH
RELEASE OF POWER MIGHT
INFLUENCE AKIRA.

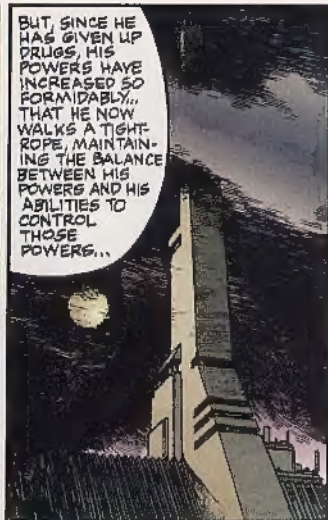


BUT, SINCE HE
HAS GIVEN UP
DRUGS, HIS
POWERS HAVE
INCREASED SO
FORMIDABLY...
THAT HE NOW
WALKS A TIGHT-
ROPE, MAINTAIN-
ING THE BALANCE
BETWEEN HIS
POWERS AND HIS
ABILITIES TO
CONTROL
THOSE
POWERS...

WHILE TETSUO
RETAINS MASTERY
OF HIS OWN
ABILITIES, ALL
IS WELL...

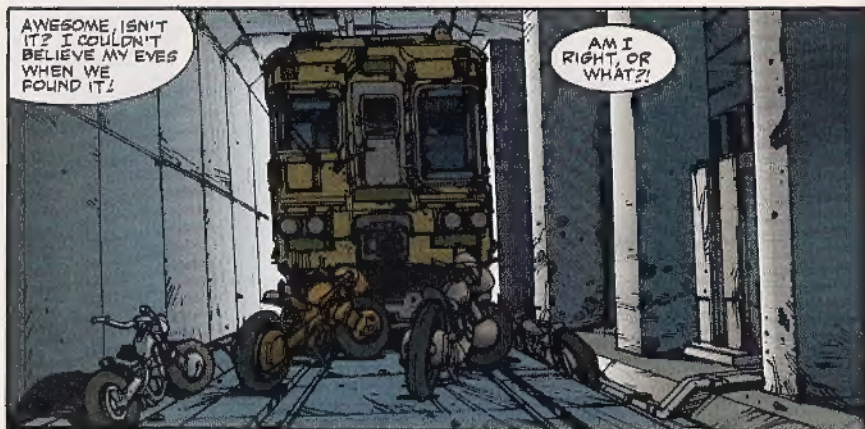


AT THIS
TIME, HE CAN
DEAL WITH
WHATEVER
ADJUST-
MENTS ARE
NEEDED.



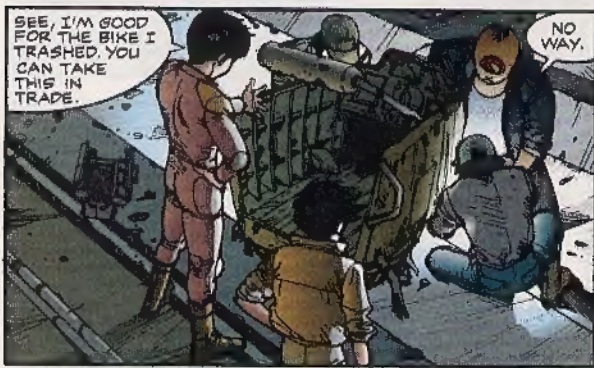
...BALANCING
WITH A
DELICACY
AKIN TO
THAT
OF THE
POOR,
HALF-
DESTROYED
MOON.





AWESOME, ISN'T IT? I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN WE FOUND IT!

AM I RIGHT, OR WHAT?!



SEE, I'M GOOD FOR THE BIKE I TRASHED. YOU CAN TAKE THIS IN TRADE.

NO WAY.



THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WORKING PARTS TO MAKE IT USEFUL.



A BIG GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO BE SUCH A NITPICKER!

?



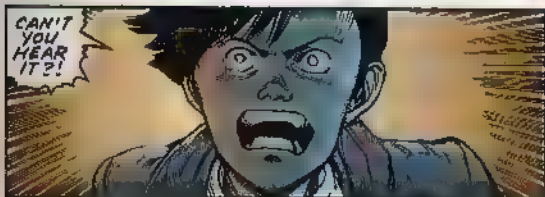
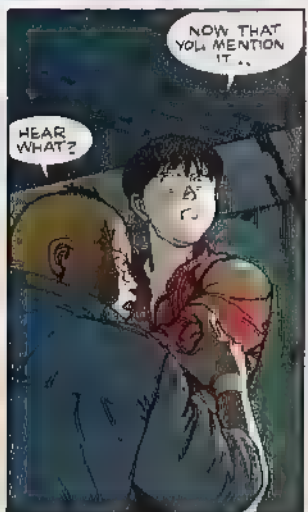
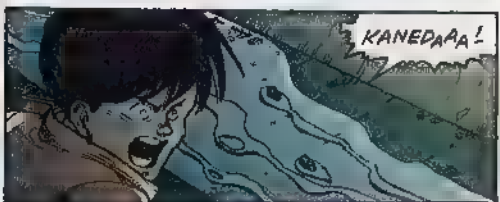
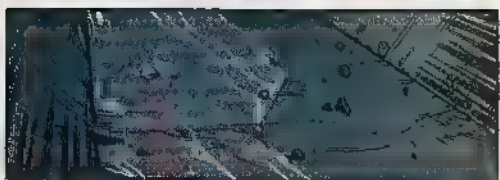
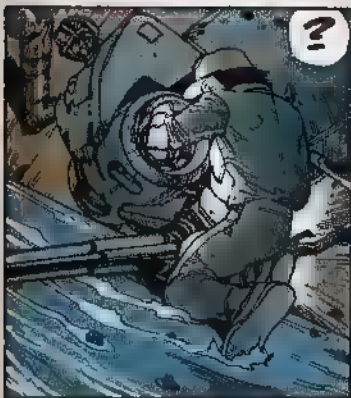
APPRAISE THIS, KANEDA!

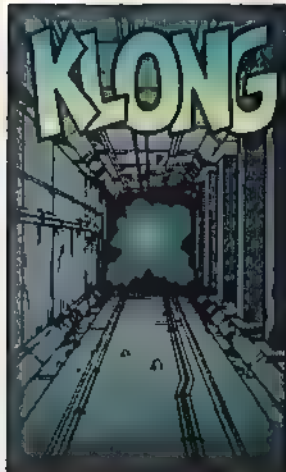
ASSHOLE!

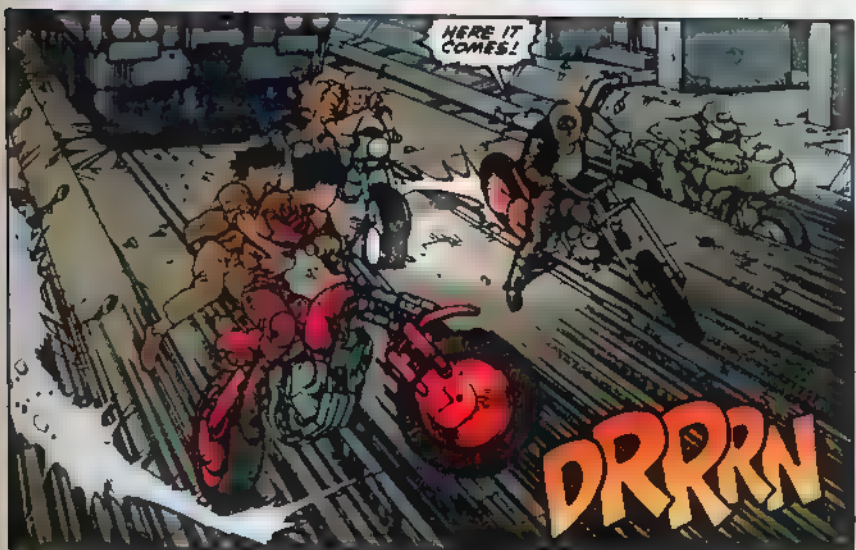
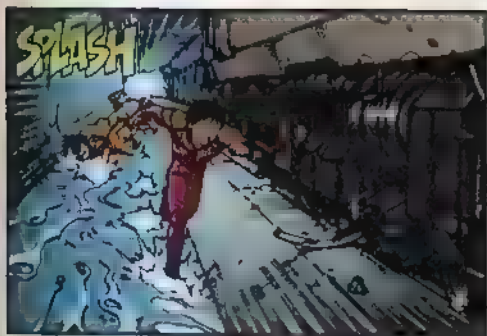


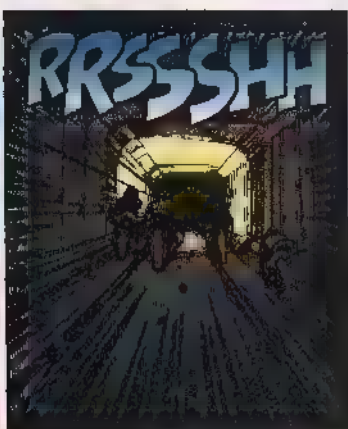
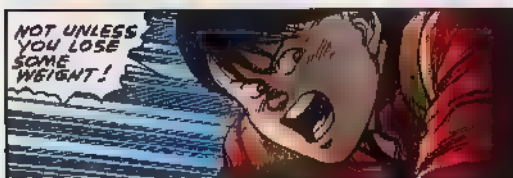
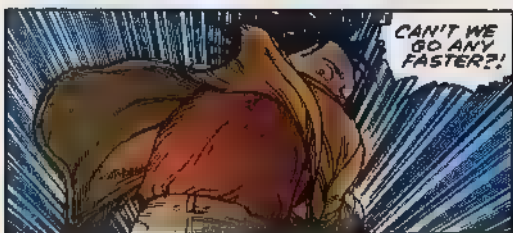
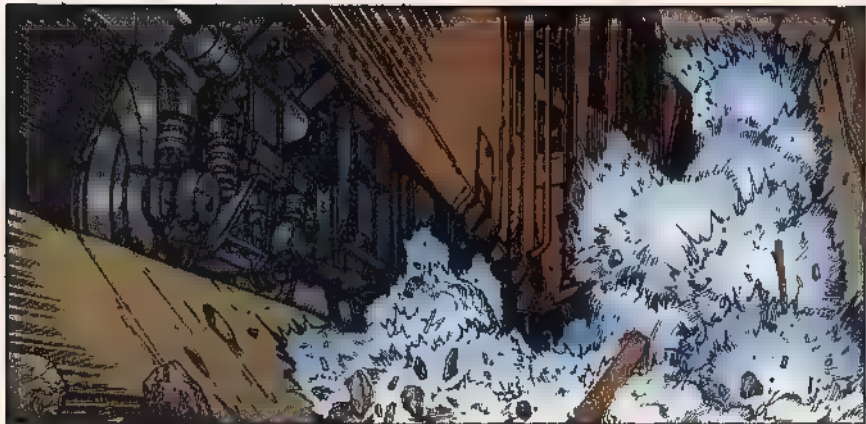
INSTEAD OF APPRAISING EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, YOU GOTTA LEARN TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE!

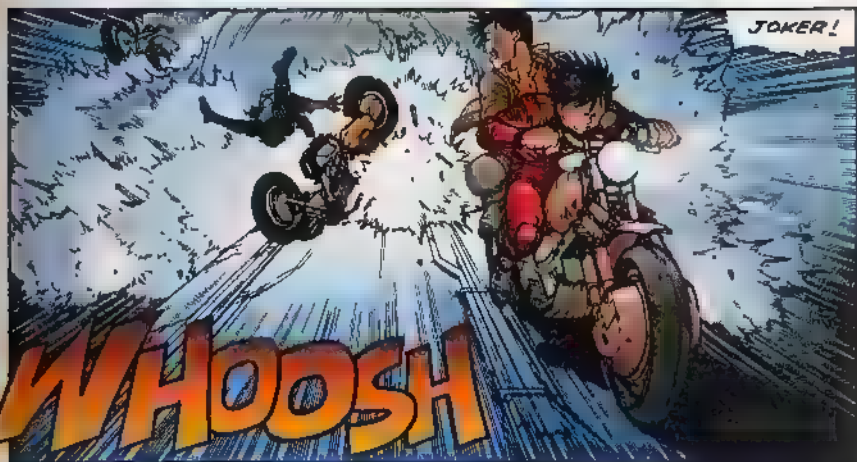
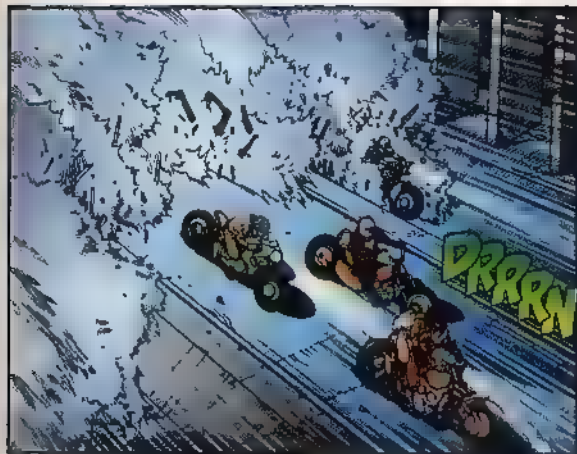
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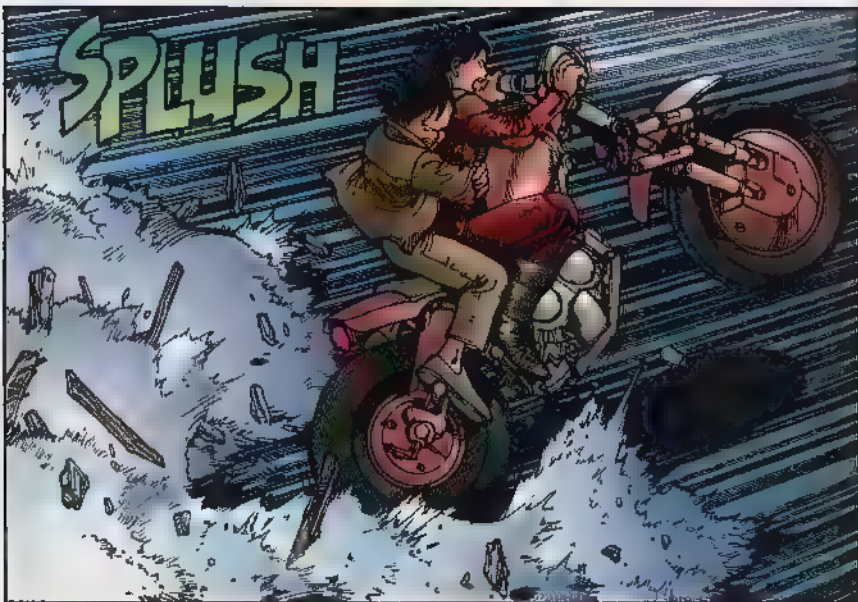




DRRRN

THERE'S NO
WAY WE CAN MAKE
IT, RIDING LIKE
THIS.

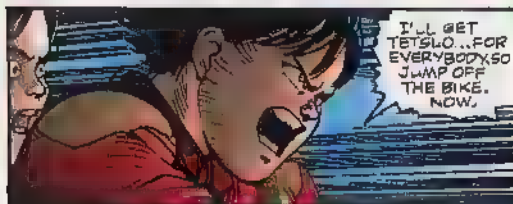
SPLASH



DON'T WORRY,
KAI. THE FUTURE'S
SAFE IN MY
HANDS!



I'LL GET
TETSUO...FOR
EVERYBODY SO
JUMP OFF
THE BIKE.
NOW.

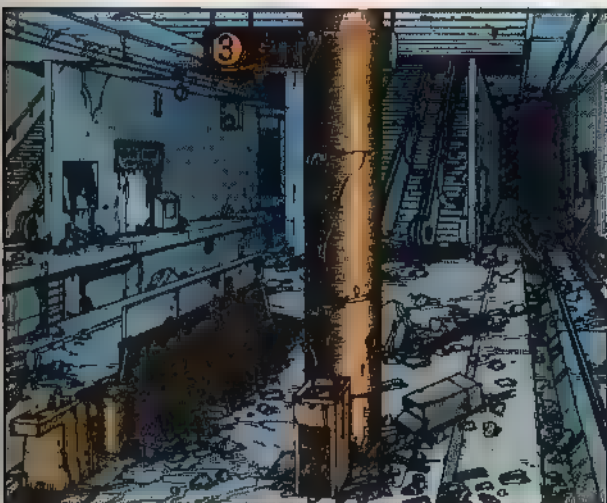
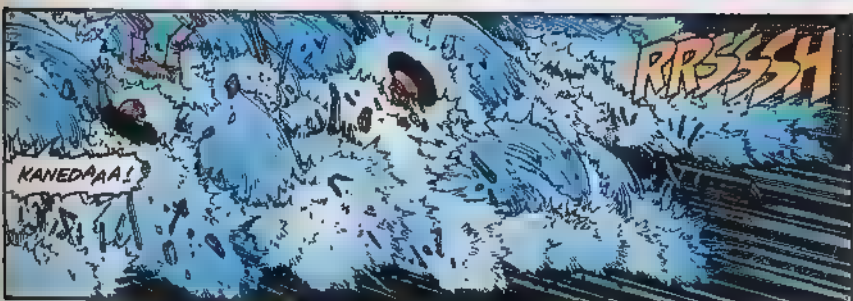
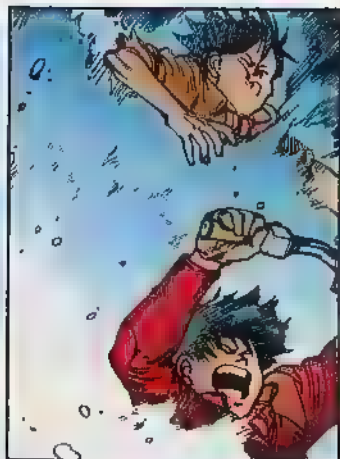
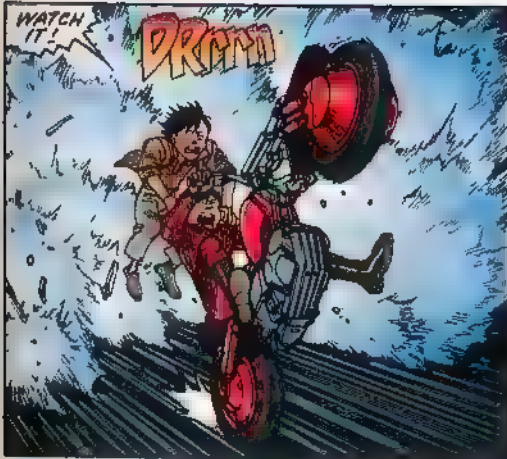


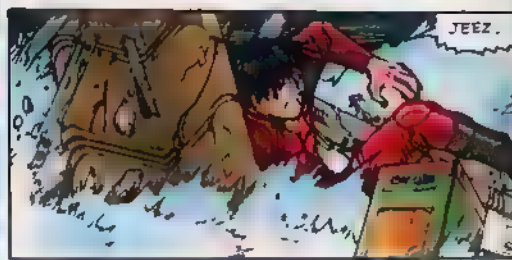
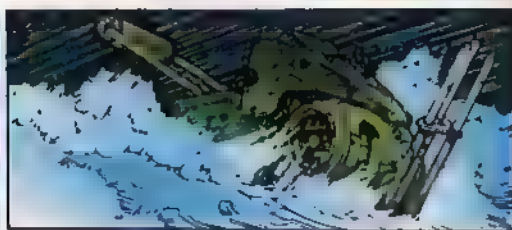
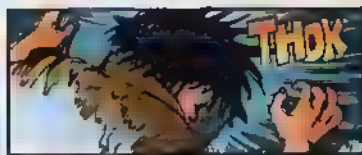
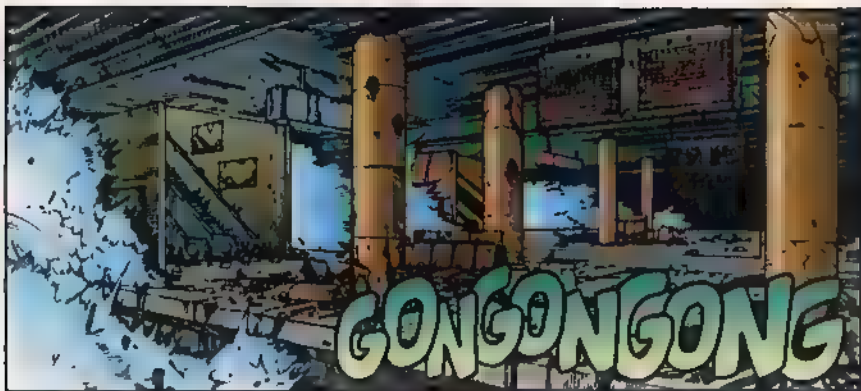
YOU BASTARD!

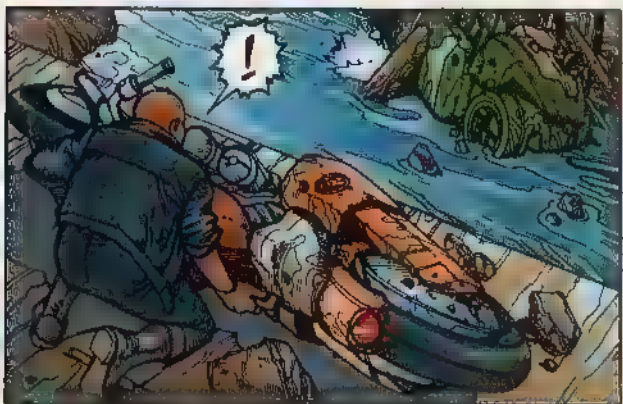
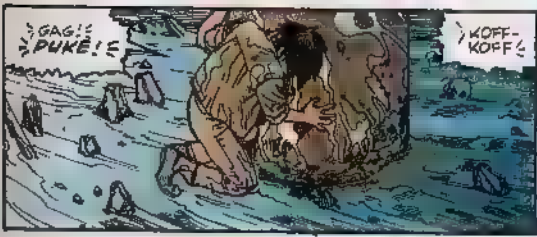
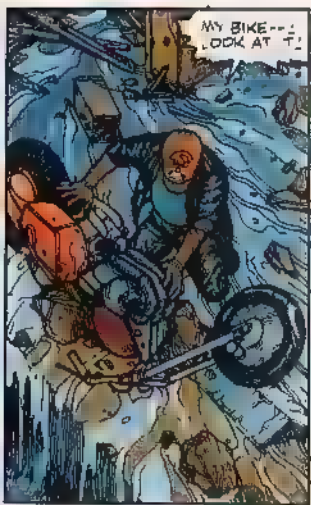
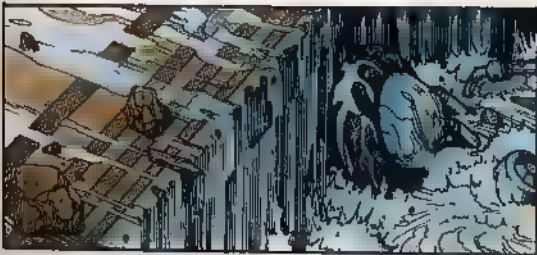
HOW CAN YOU
THINK OF YOUR-
SELF AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

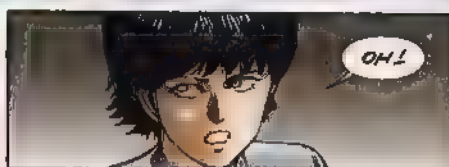
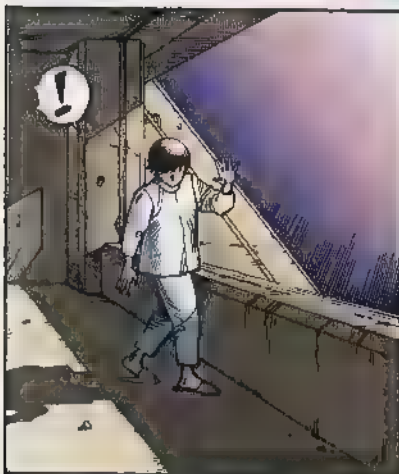
OW!!



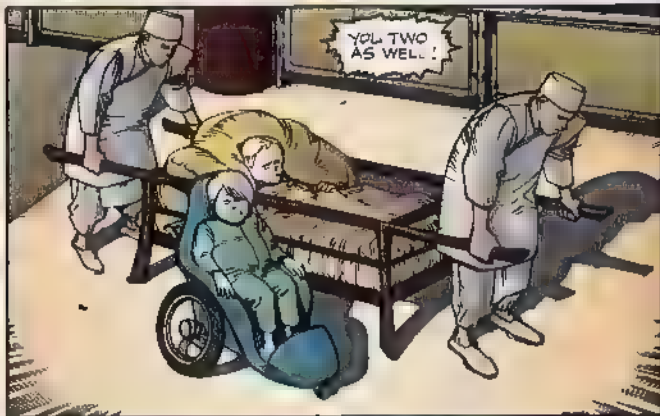
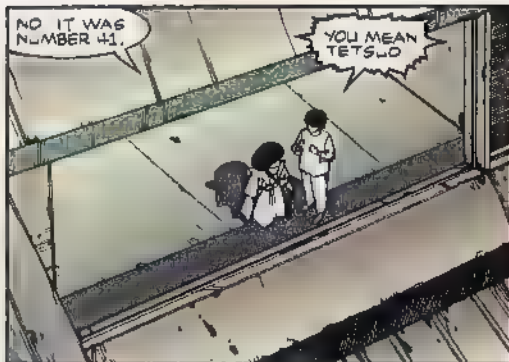


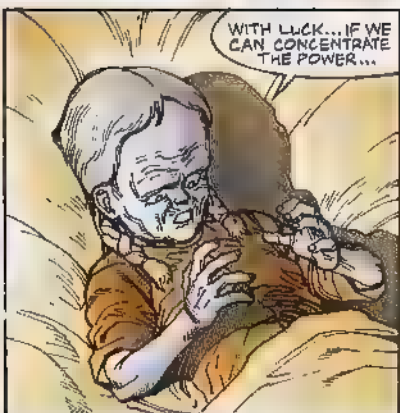
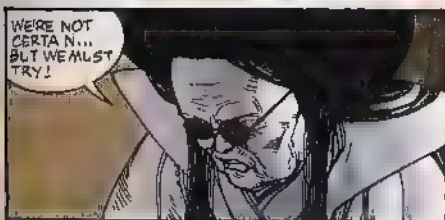
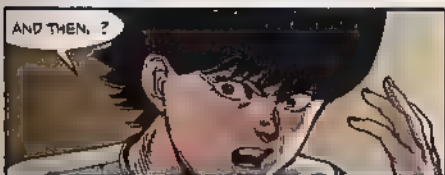
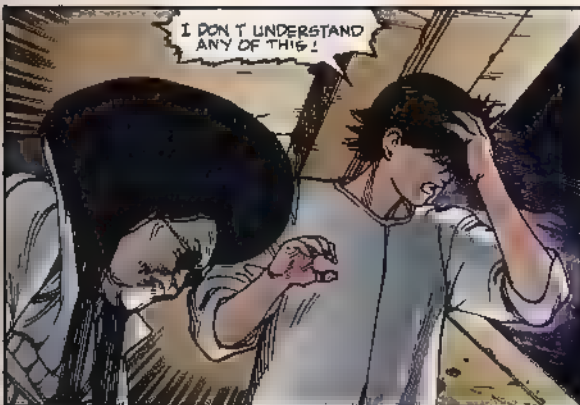


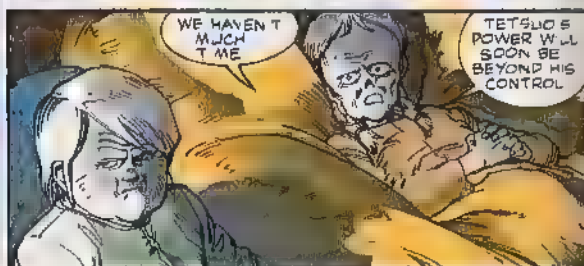
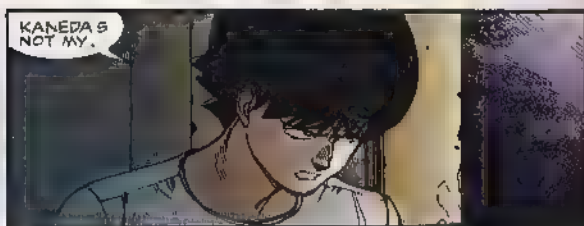
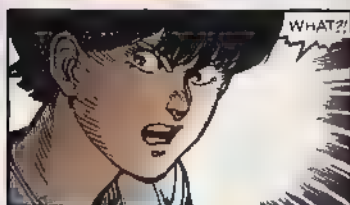






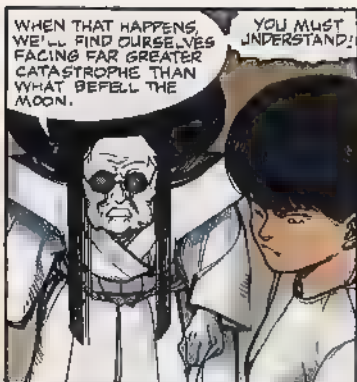








IT'S GRADUALLY CONSUMING HIM HIS EGO, HIS ENTIRE PERSONALTY.

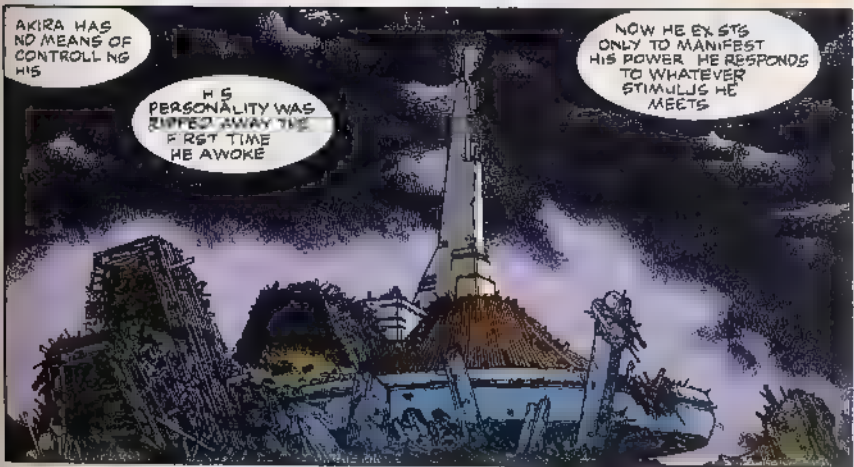


WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE'LL FIND OURSELVES FACING FAR GREATER CATASTROPHE THAN WHAT BEFELL THE MOON.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND!



WE ARE ABLE TO COEXIST WITH OUR POWER ONLY BY TAKING DRUGS.



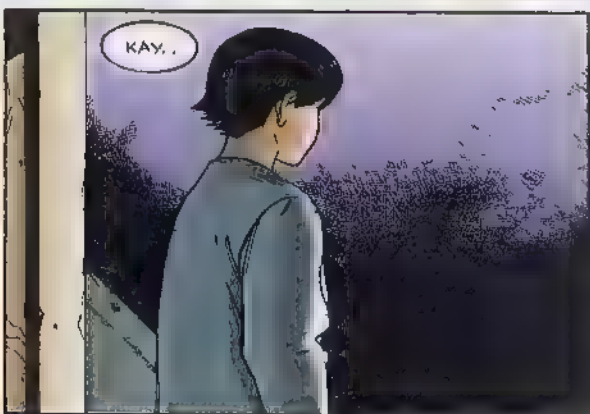
AKIRA HAS NO MEANS OF CONTROLLING HIS

HIS PERSONALITY WAS RIPPED AWAY THE FIRST TIME HE AWOKE

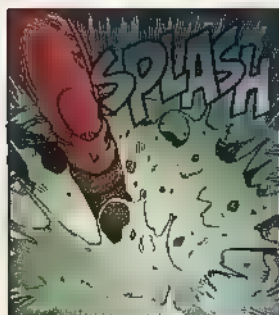
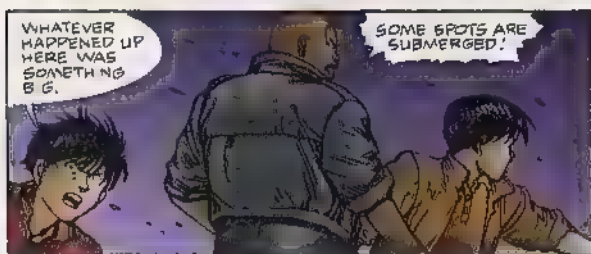
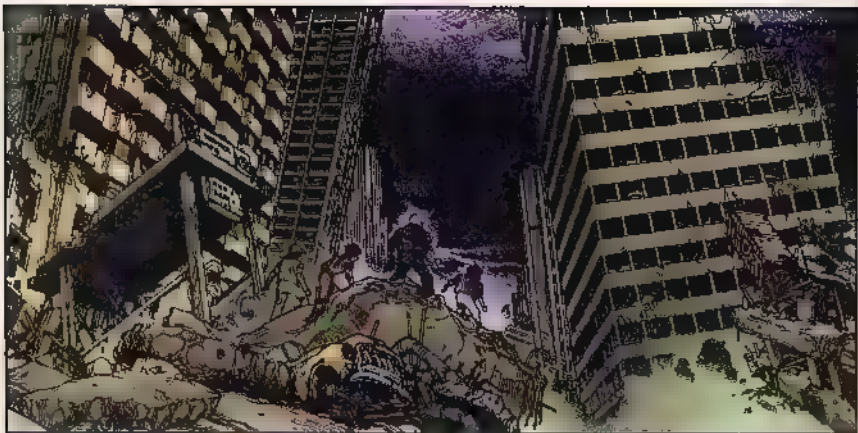
NOW HE EXISTS ONLY TO MANIFEST HIS POWER. HE RESPONDS TO WHATEVER STIMULUS HE MEETS

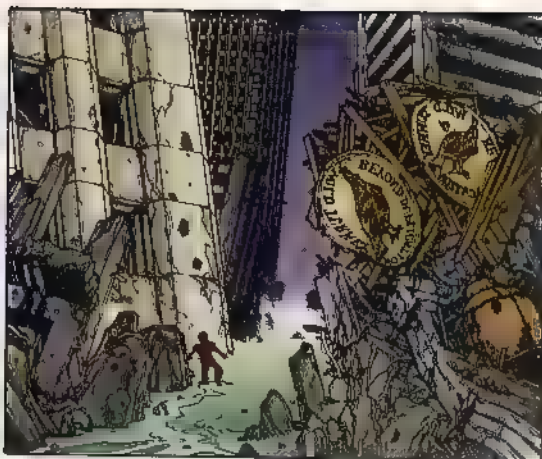
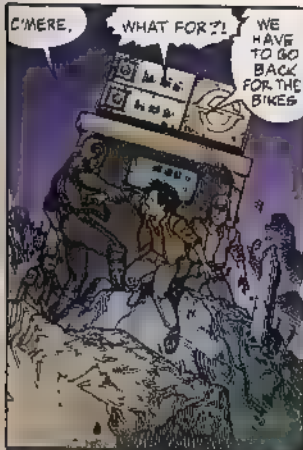


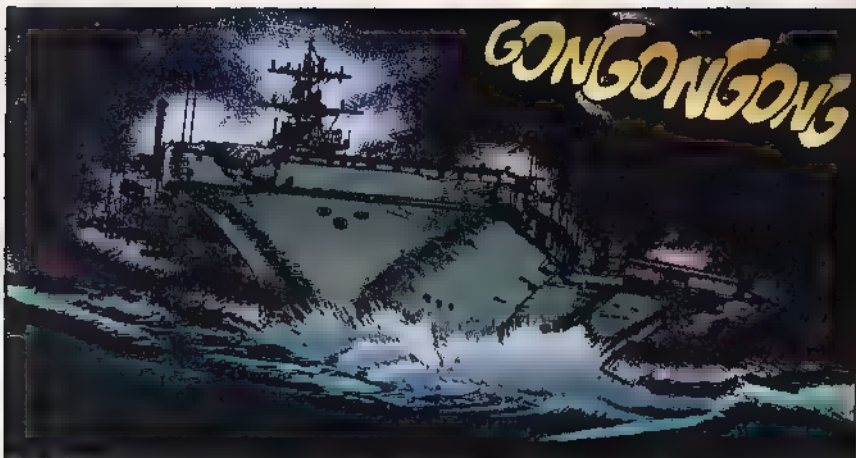
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO--!



KAY..







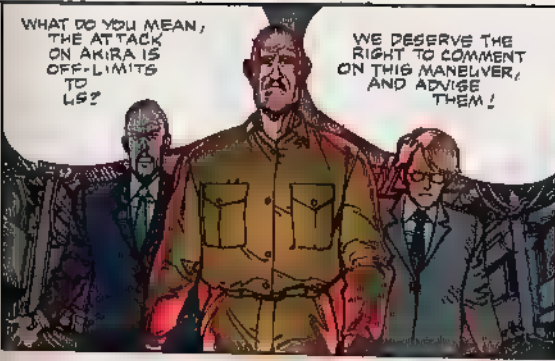
GONGONGONG



ATTENTION SPECIAL FORCES!
REPORT TO THE OPERATIONS ROOM
DRESSED FOR LEVEL FIVE COMBAT.

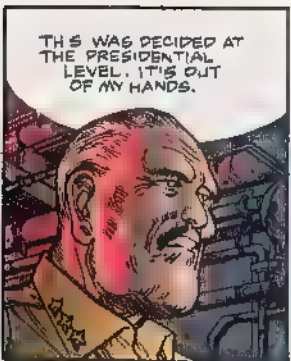


REPEAT, SPECIAL
FORCES PERSONNEL ...




WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
THE ATTACK
ON AKIRA IS
OFF-LIMITS
TO US?

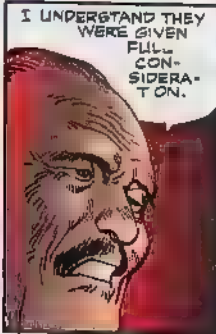
WE DESERVE THE
RIGHT TO COMMENT
ON THIS MANEUVER,
AND ADVISE
THEM!




THIS WAS DECIDED AT
THE PRESIDENTIAL
LEVEL. IT'S OUT
OF MY HANDS.




WHAT ABOUT
THE REPORTS WE
SUBMITTED?




I UNDERSTAND THEY
WERE GIVEN
FULL
CONSIDERA-
TION.



THEN LET US
ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTLY.



...BUT A SOLDIER'S DUTY LIES IN DOING
WHAT MUST BE DONE, WHATEVER THE
RISK TO HIS OWN LIFE. IF THE
OPERATION SUCCEEDS, IT'S COMPENSA-
TION ENOUGH FOR THE CASUALTIES

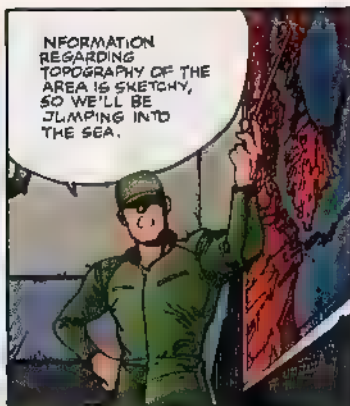


IF HE'LL ONLY
LISTEN, WE CAN
MINIMIZE
THE CASUAL-
TIES...

THANK
YOU...



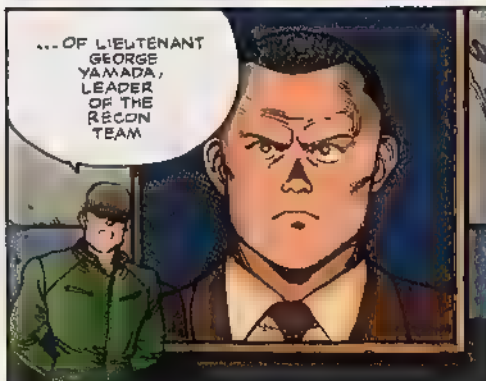
HERE
IS
WHERE WE'LL
BE
DROPPED.



INFORMATION
REGARDING
TOPOGRAPHY OF THE
AREA IS SKETCHY,
SO WE'LL BE
JUMPING INTO
THE SEA.



THIS IS A
PICTURE.



... OF LIEUTENANT
GEORGE
YAMADA,
LEADER
OF THE
RECON
TEAM

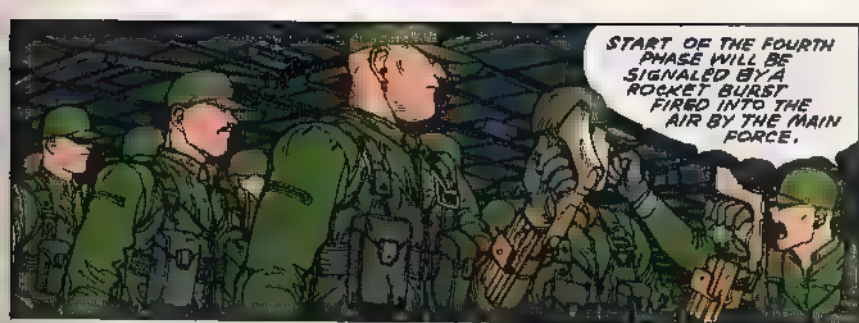


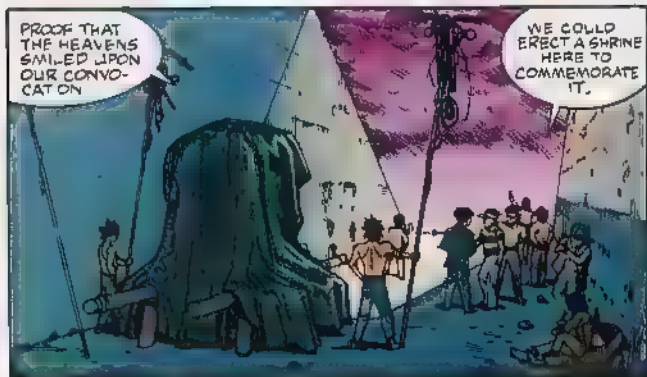
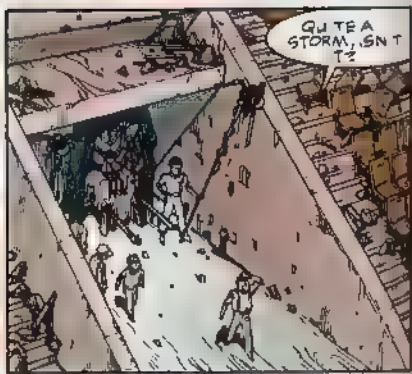
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RENDEZ-
VOUS WITH HIM AFTER LANDING
THEN, WHEN HE GIVES THE
WORD...

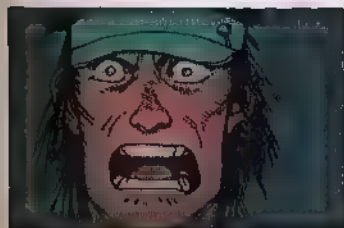


... WE'LL PROCEED
TO PHASE
THREE, IN THE
EVENT THAT WE ARE
UNABLE TO
MAKE
CONTACT...

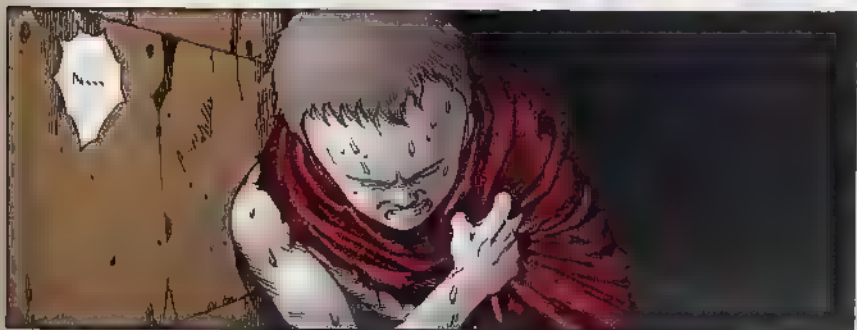
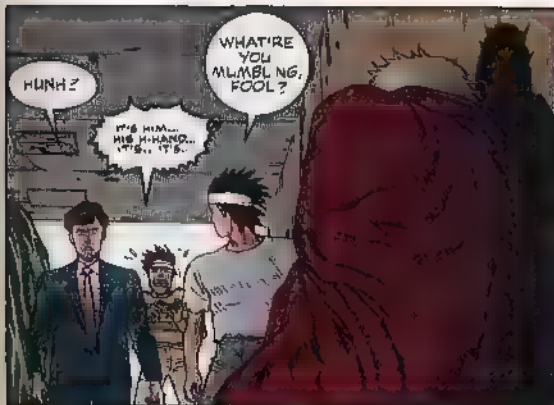
... OR
IF IT BECOMES
NECESSARY TO KEEP
THE LIEUTENANT
UNDER SURVEILLANCE
USE YOUR OWN
JUDGMENT ON
WHEN TO
COMMENCE
PHASE
THREE

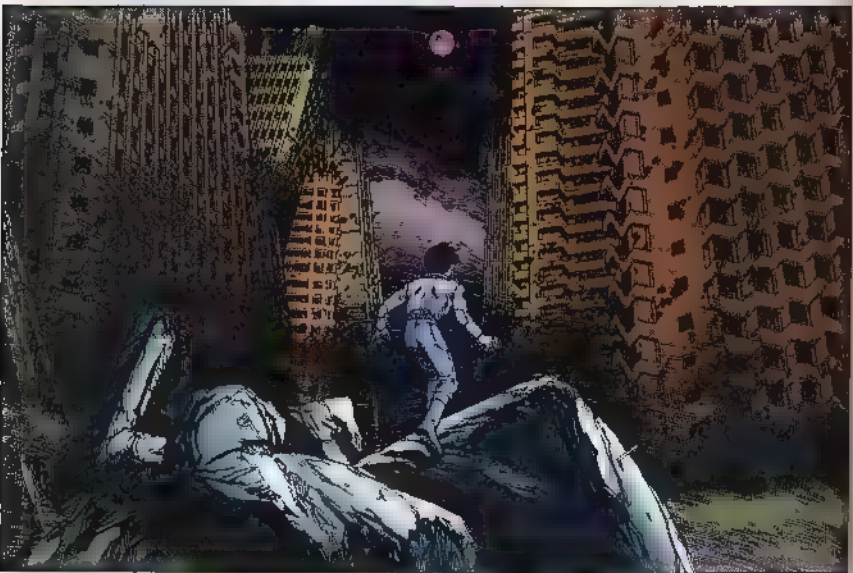


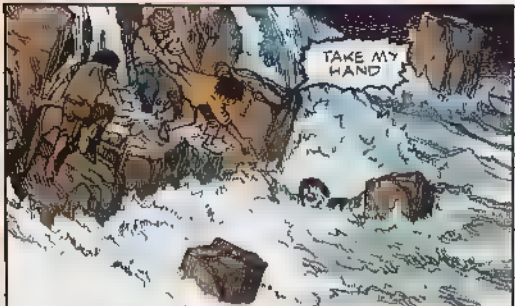
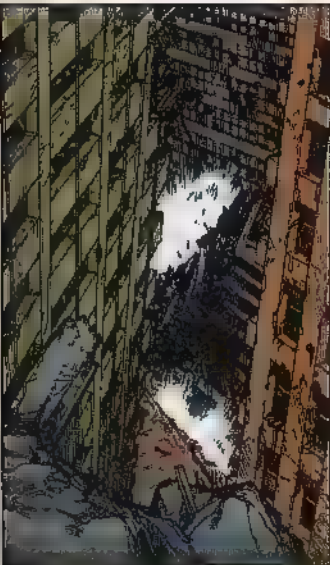












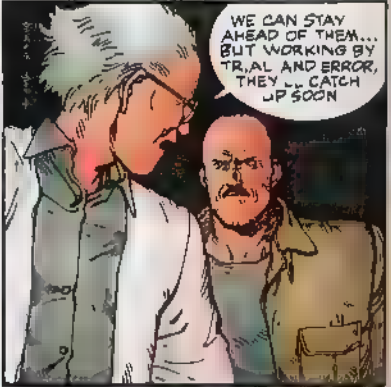




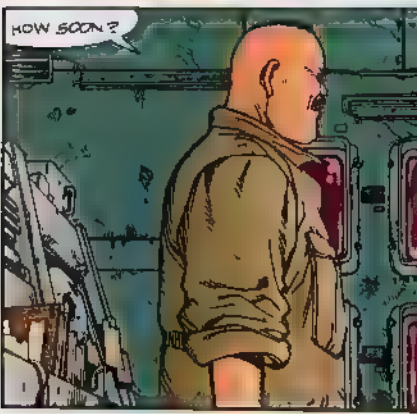
START NOW AND
REARRANGE THE
ENCODING



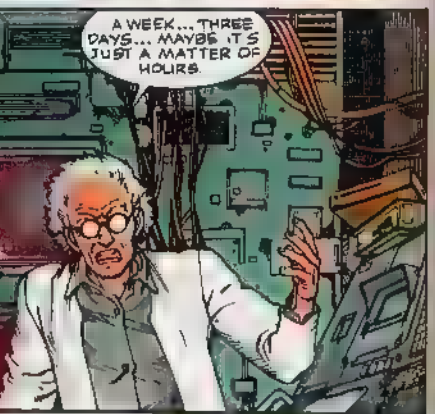
I'LL TRY, BUT
THE FIRST LAYER
OF THE DEFENSES
HAS ALREADY
BEEN BREACHED



WE CAN STAY
AHEAD OF THEM...
BUT WORKING BY
TRIAL AND ERROR,
THEY'LL CATCH
UP SOON



HOW SOON?



A WEEK... THREE
DAYS... MAYBE IT'S
JUST A MATTER OF
HOURS



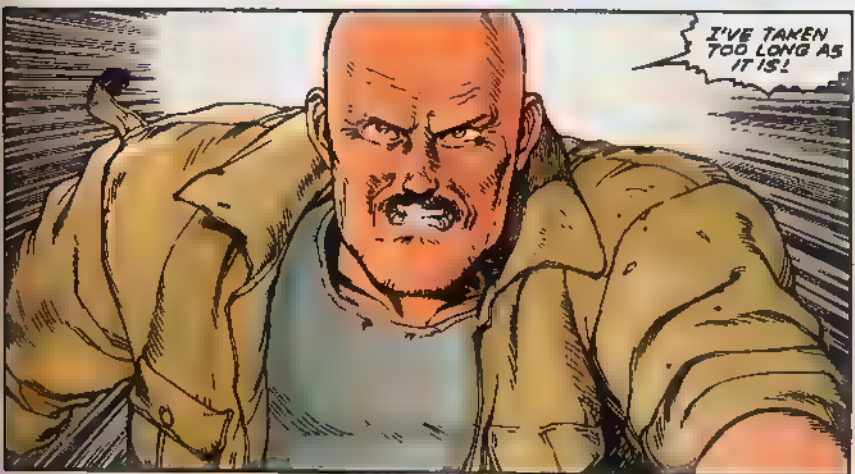
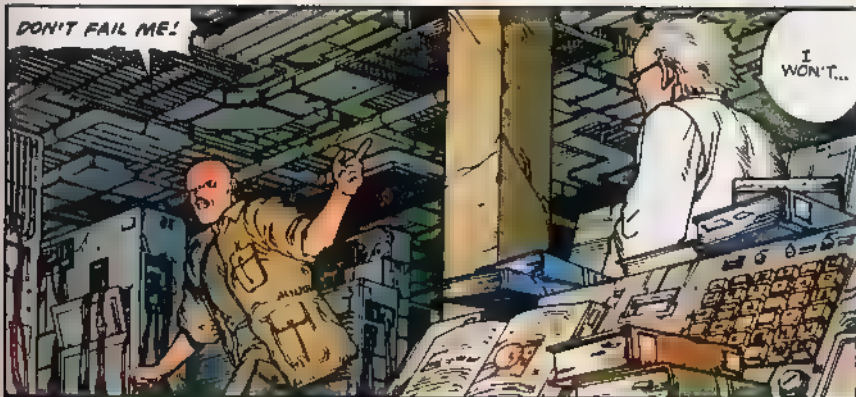
DAMN!



I THINK IF I GIVE IT
MY ALL I CAN BUY
US THREE DAYS.



EXCELLENT!



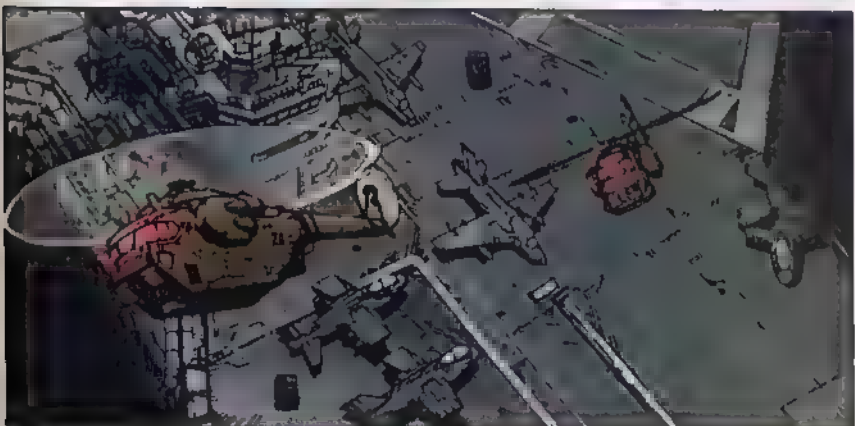
H-545, YOU ARE CLEARED FOR
TAKEOFF.

LOOK OUT FOR WAVES
OFF THE STARBOARD
SIDE.

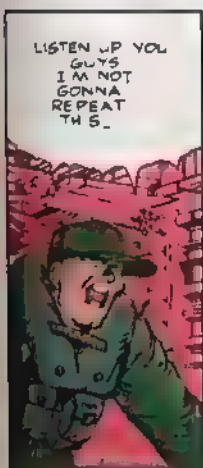
THE SECOND PLANE IS
CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.

ALL FLIGHT LEADERS
PROCEED TO THE
SECOND ELEVATOR.

AS SOON AS TAKEOFF
PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETE, ALL
PLANES ON DECK MUST BE
HANGARED.

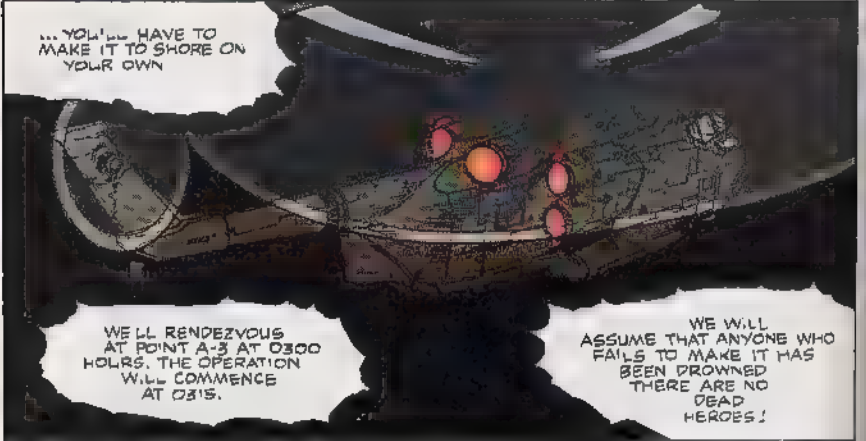


LISTEN UP YOL
GUYS
I'M NOT
GONNA
REPEAT
TH S.



THAT'S A CHOPPY SEA
OUT THERE WITH
A HIGH WIND
SO IF YOU
CAN'T REACH
A BOAT ONCE
WE HIT
THE
WATER...





... YOU'LL HAVE TO
MAKE IT TO SHORE ON
YOUR OWN

WE'LL RENDEZVOUS
AT POINT A-3 AT 0300
HOURS. THE OPERATION
WILL COMMENCE
AT 0315.

WE WILL
ASSUME THAT ANYONE WHO
FAILS TO MAKE IT HAS
BEEN DROWNED
THERE ARE NO
DEAD
HEROES!

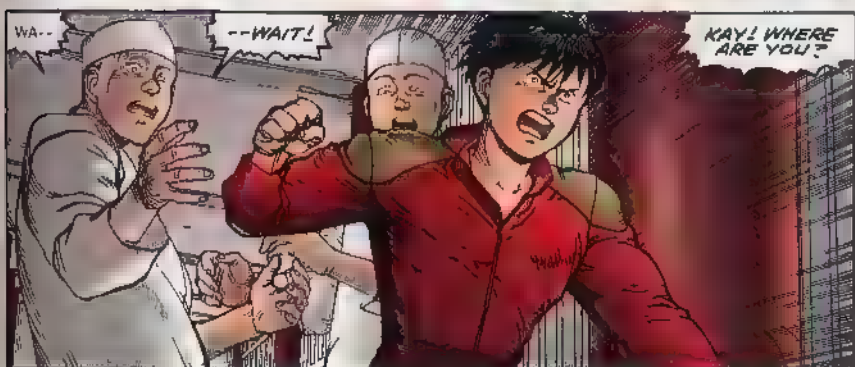
UNDERSTAND?

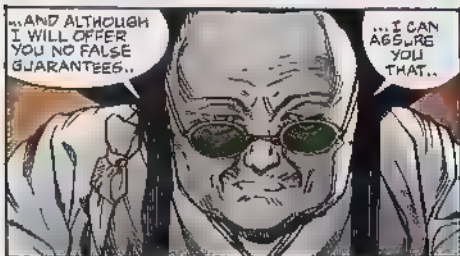
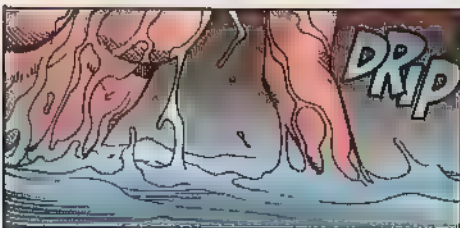
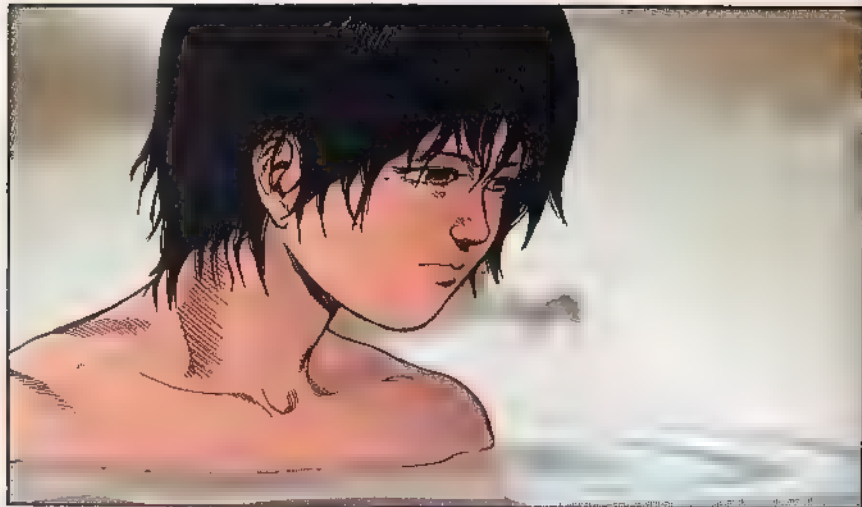
AYE-AYE, SIR!

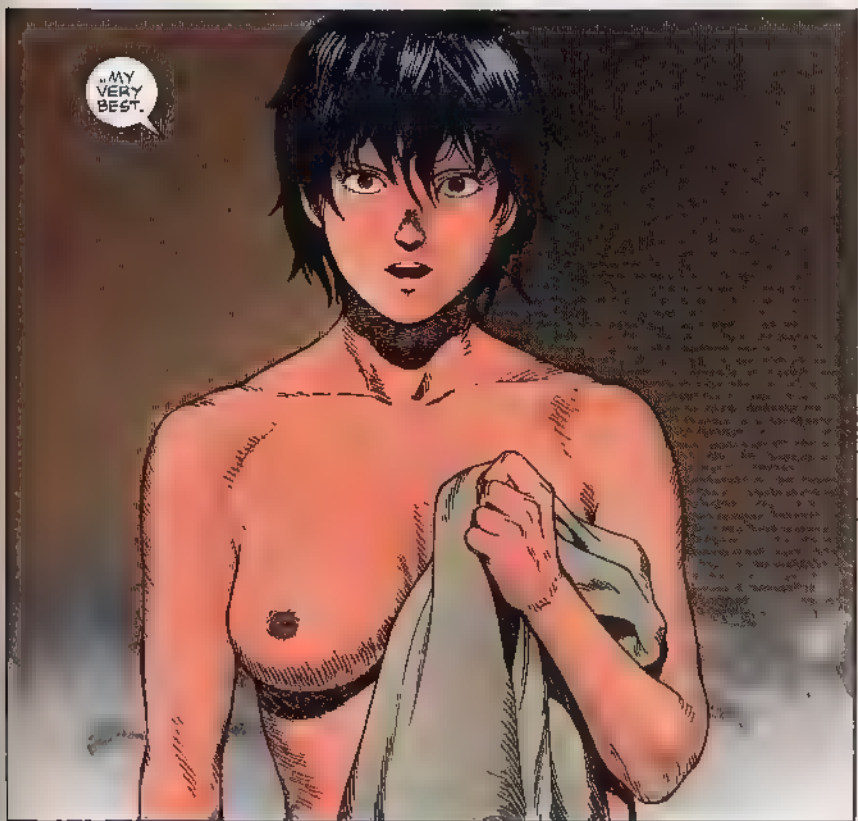
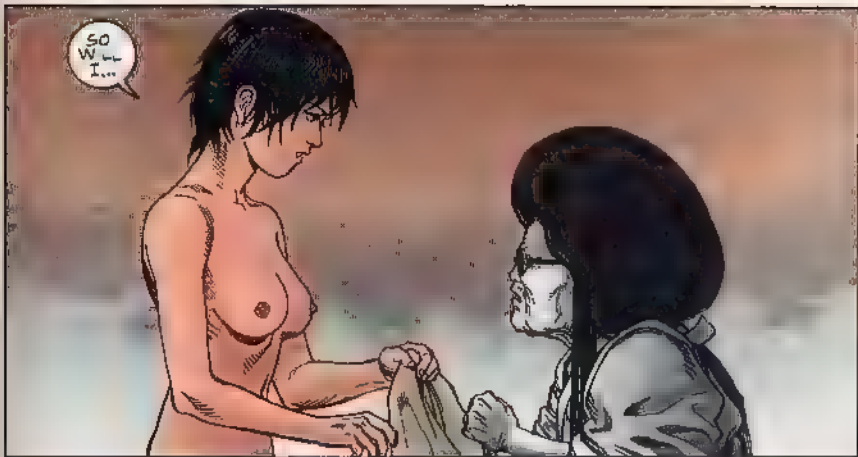


GONGONG









THE PURIFICATION
IS ONLY A
FORMALITY

IT'S A
SYMBOL T
DEMONSTRATES
HER DESIRE TO
CONCENTRATE
AND FOCUS ON
OUR TASK

I THINK SHE
NEEDS
THAT.

I D ON T
EXPECT YOU
TO BE
HERE
YET

LOOK

AS YOU CAN SEE,
ALL IS WELL WTH
KAY. NOTHING TO
BE CONCERNED
ABOUT

THE
NEXT
STEP
S TO
MAKE A
PLACE

KAY!



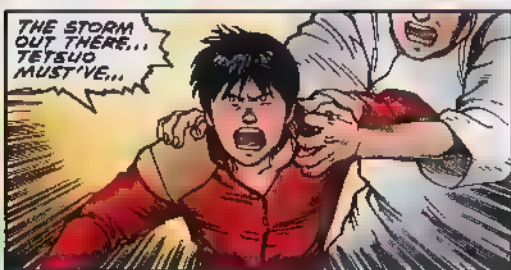
STOP RIGHT THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

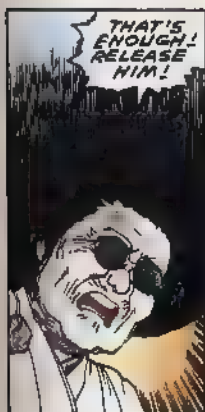
SHUT UP!



KANEDA!



THE STORM
OUT THERE...
TETSUO
MUST'VE...



THAT'S
ENOUGH!
RELEASE
HIM!



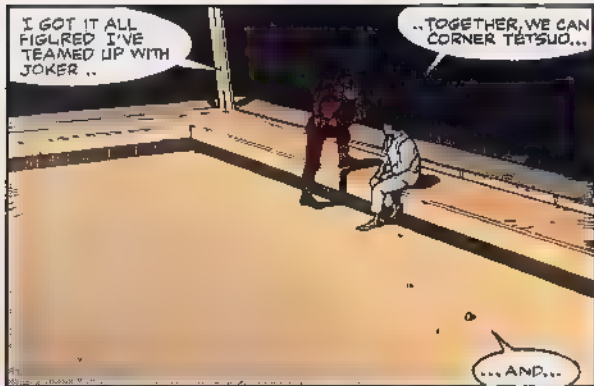
YOU HEARD
HER,
SCUMBAG!
HANDS
OFF!



KANEDA...



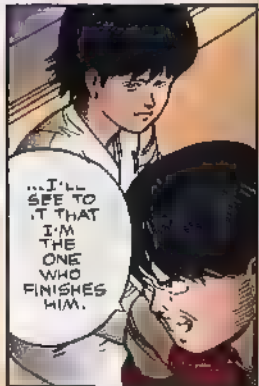
I'M RIGHT ABOUT
TETSUO, AREN'T
I, MIYAKO? HE
CAUSED THE
STORM!



I GOT IT ALL FIGURED I'VE TEAMED UP WITH JOKER ...

...TOGETHER, WE CAN CORNER TETSUO...

...AND...



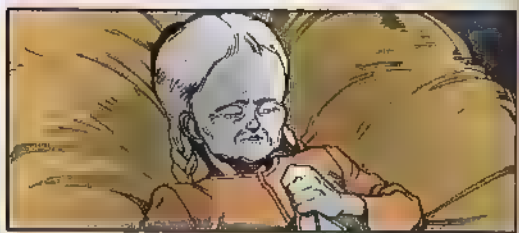
...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT I'M THE ONE WHO FINISHES HIM.



IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR THEM TO BE ALONE TOGETHER?



WE MAY RELY ON KAY'S STRENGTH OF CHARACTER



WHAT N--?



WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?



PLEASE..

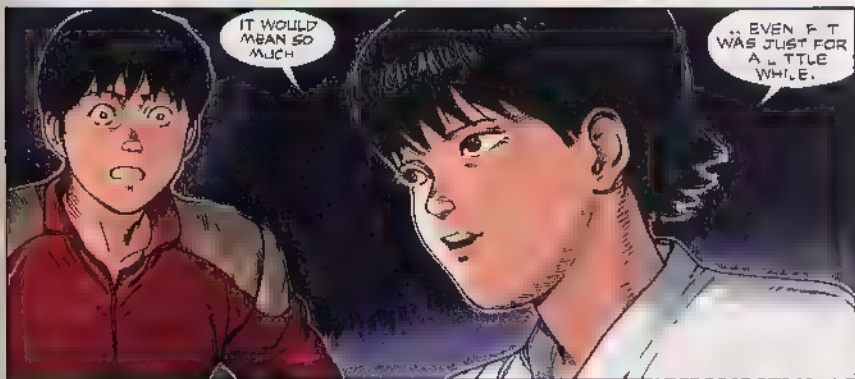
...STAY WITH ME
TON GHT.



HLINK?



BUT YOU... BUT I...
IEN T THIS KIND OF
SUDDEN?!

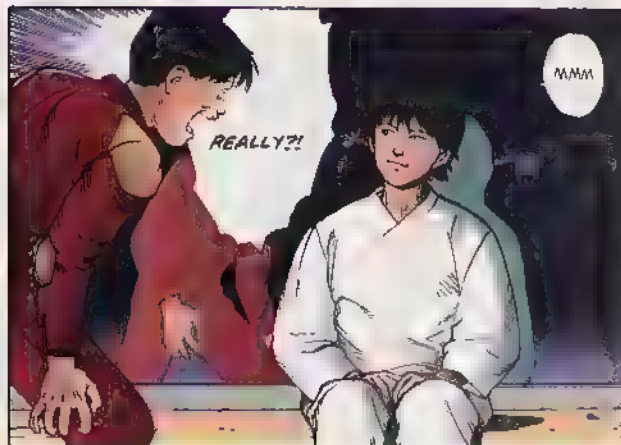


IT WOULD
MEAN SO
MUCH

... EVEN F T
WAS JUST FOR
A L T T L E
W H I L E.

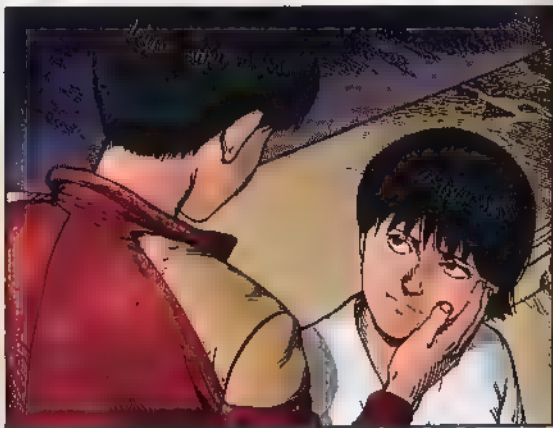
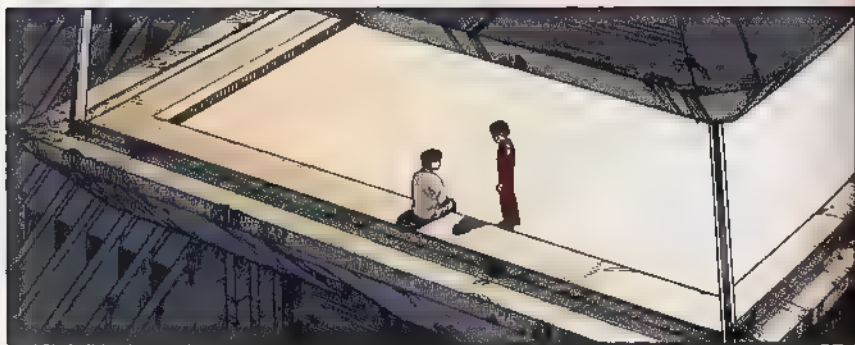
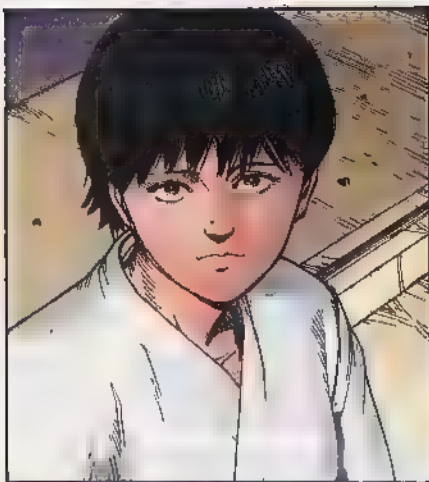


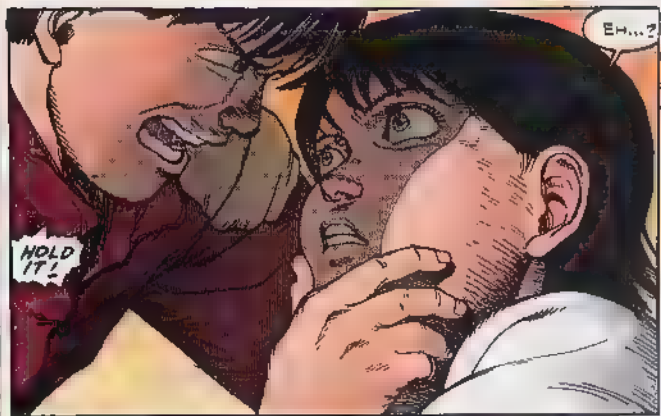
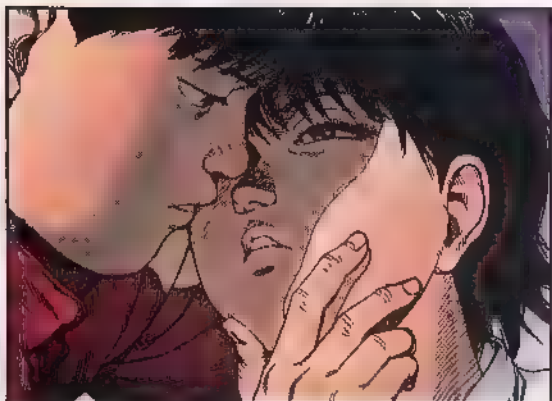
AH... AH,
GEE ... I DON T
KNOW WHAT
TO...

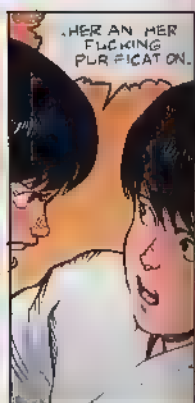
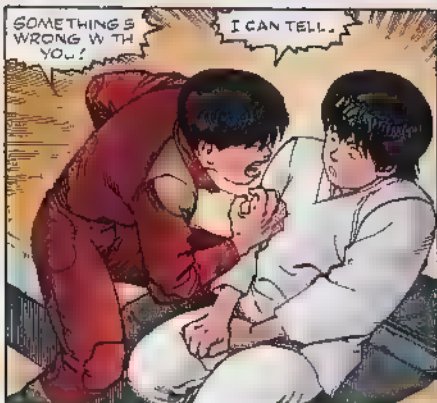
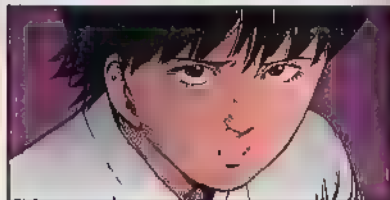
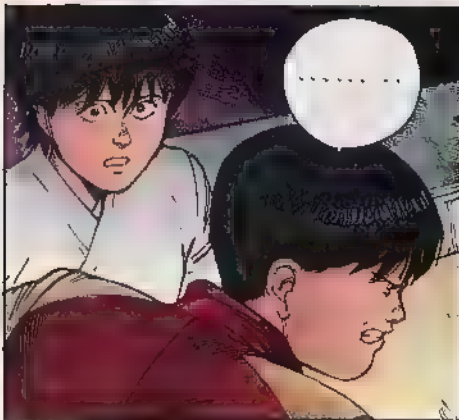
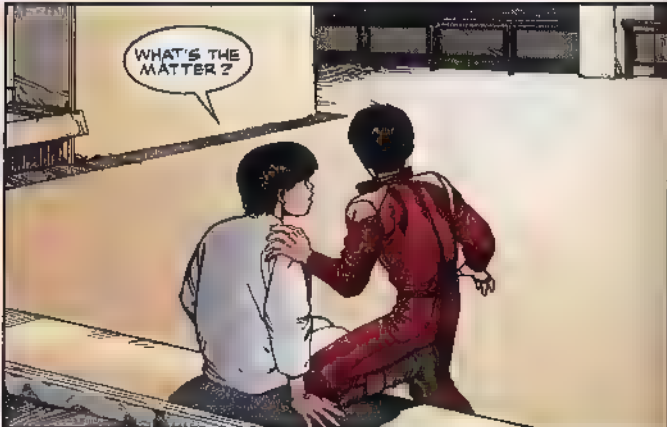
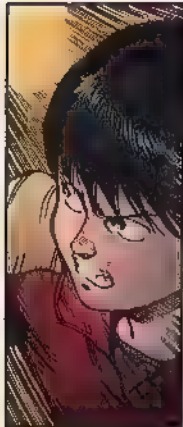


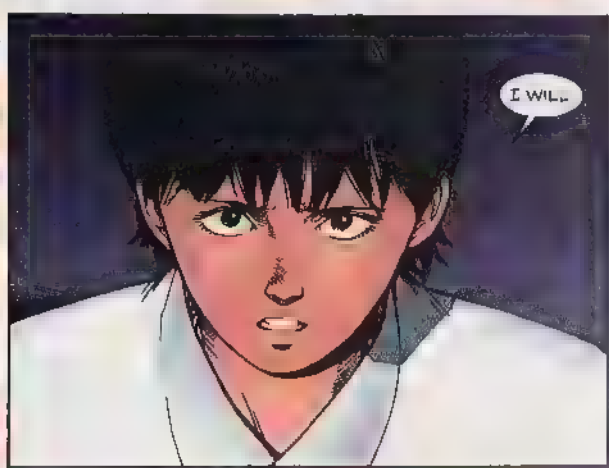
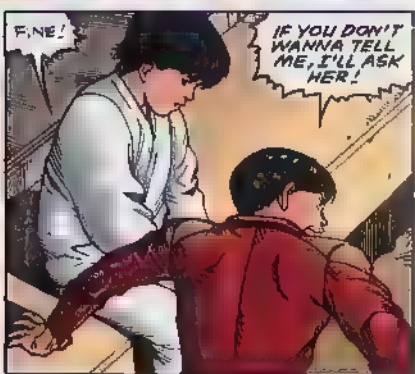
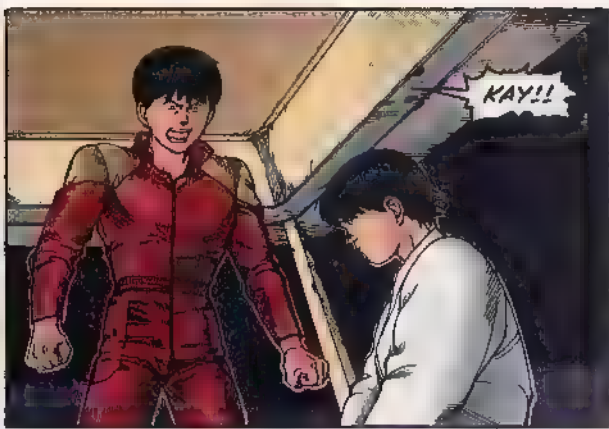
REALLY?!

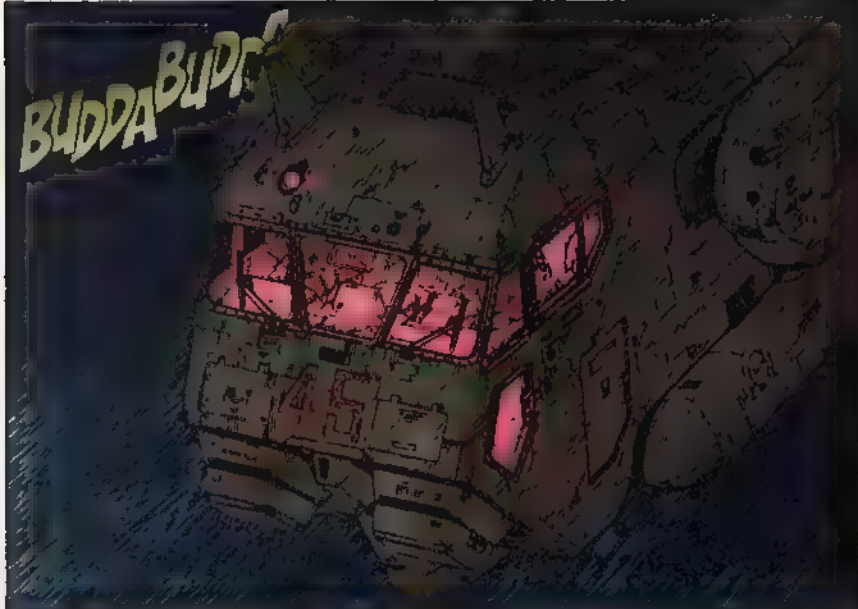
MMM



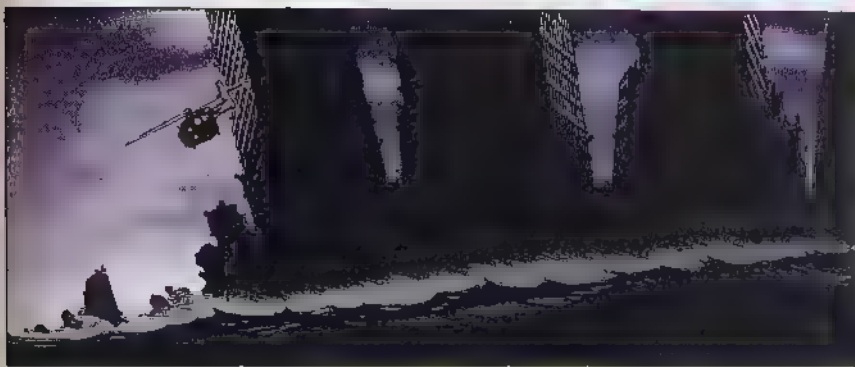
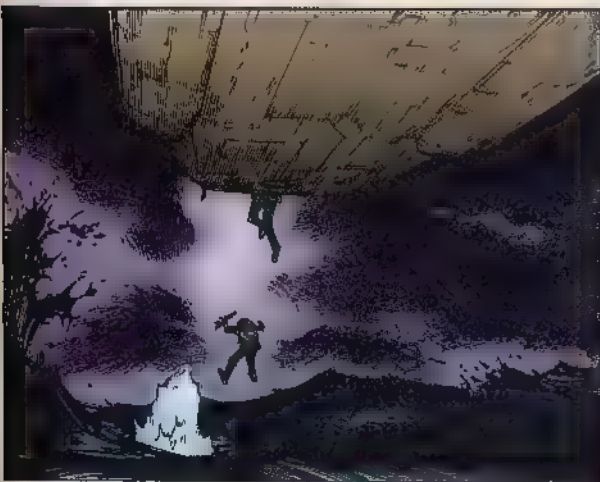


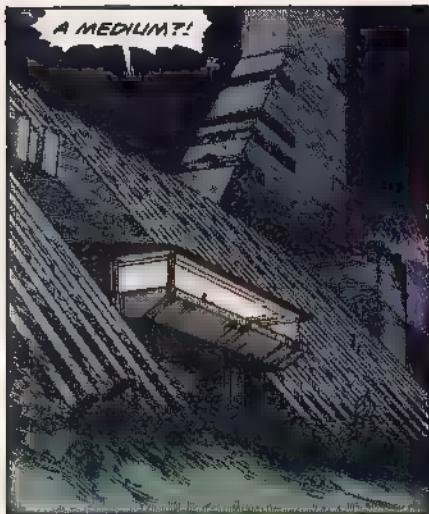






GO!





A MEDIUM?!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY I AM... WHY THEY NEED ME



I CAN WIELD THEIR POWER FOR THEM... ALL THREE OF THEM AT ONCE, CHANNELLED THROUGH MY BODY..

"SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO FACE TETSUO

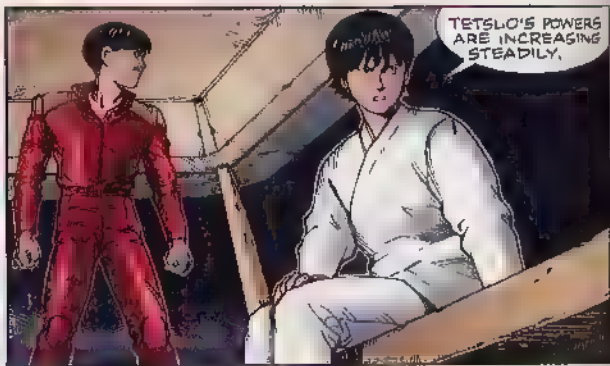


FACE... YOU MEAN FIGHT HIM?

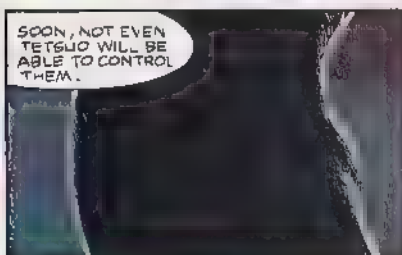
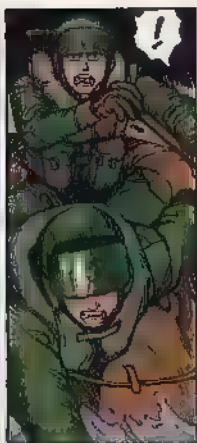
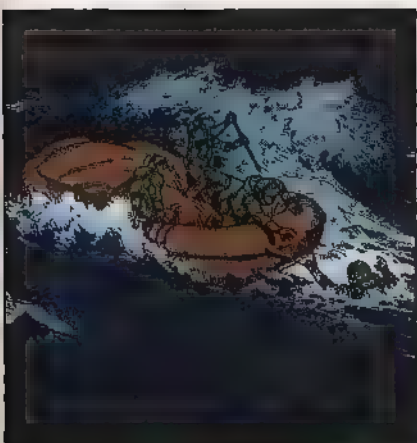
AN' WHAT THE HELL WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?!



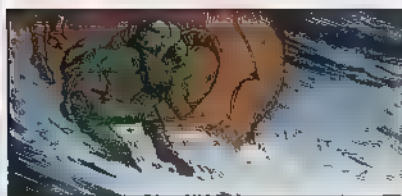
LOOK AT THE STORM.



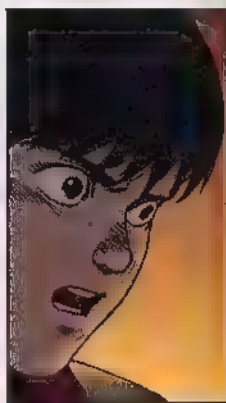
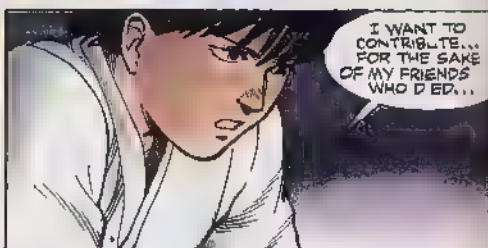
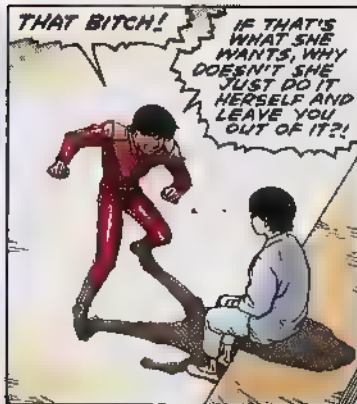
TETSUO'S POWERS ARE INCREASING STEADILY.

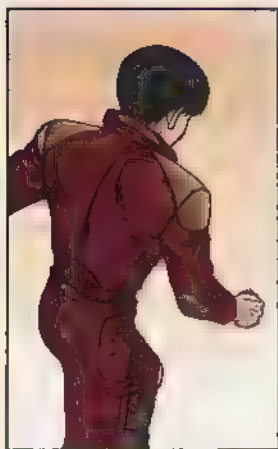
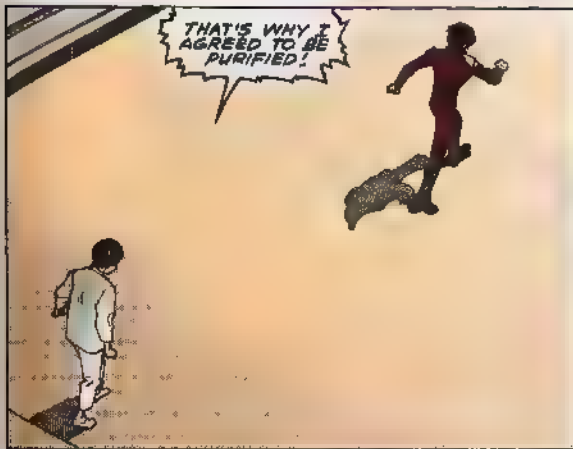
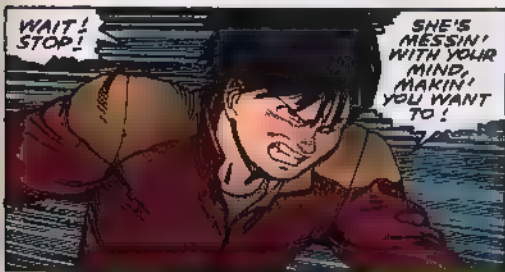
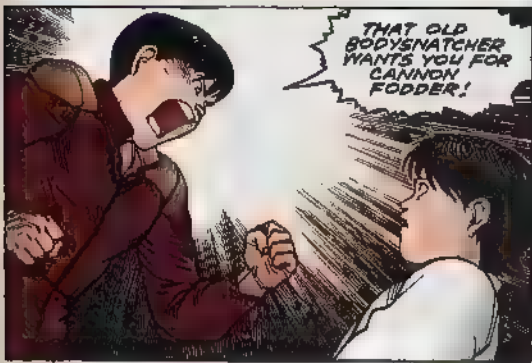


SOON, NOT EVEN
TETSUO WILL BE
ABLE TO CONTROL
THEM.



WE HAVE TO CHALLENGE
HIM NOW, BEFORE HE GROWS
INTO ANOTHER
AK RA

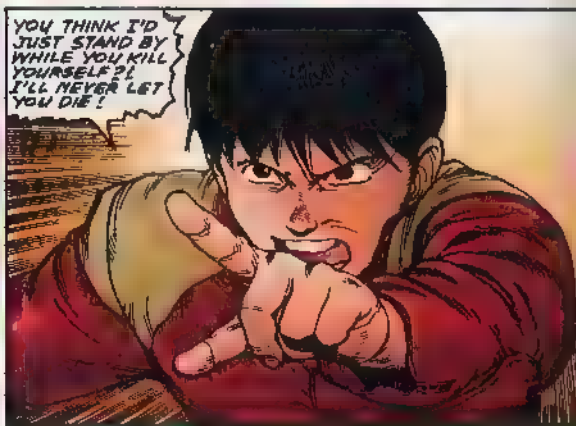
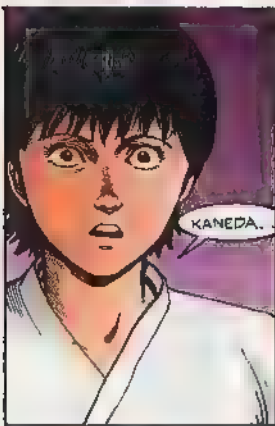




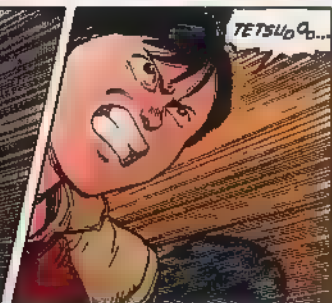
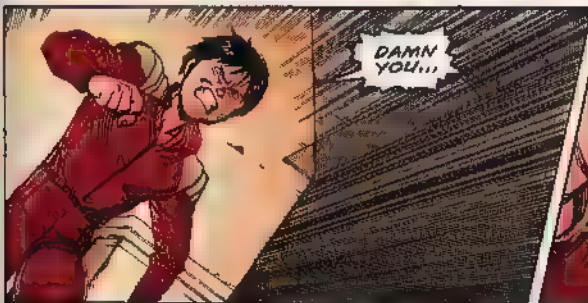


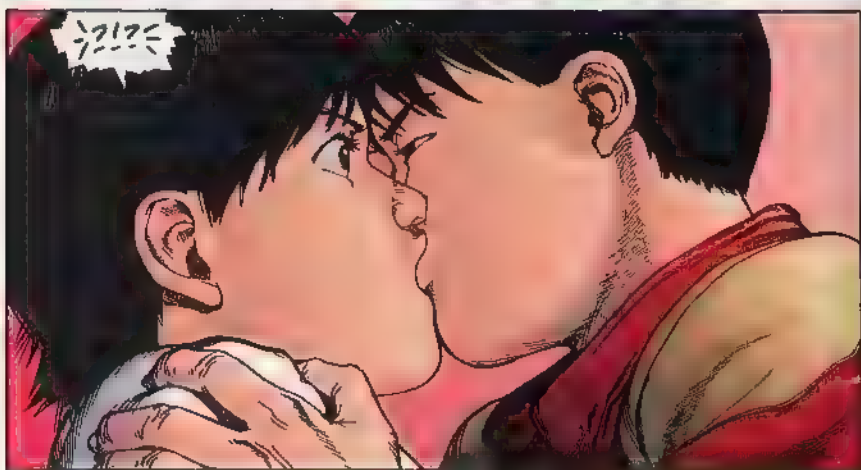
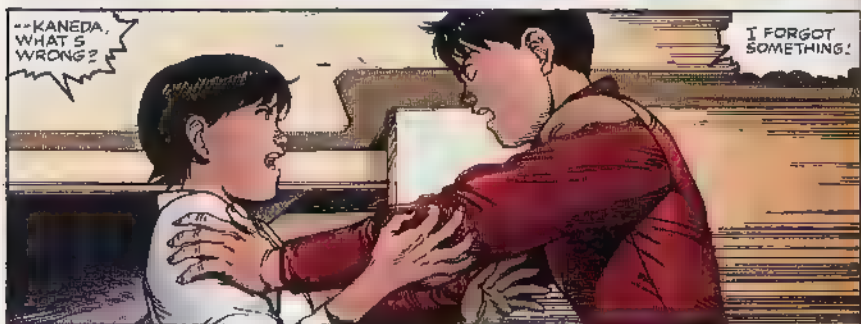
I'LL KILL HIM
MYSELF!

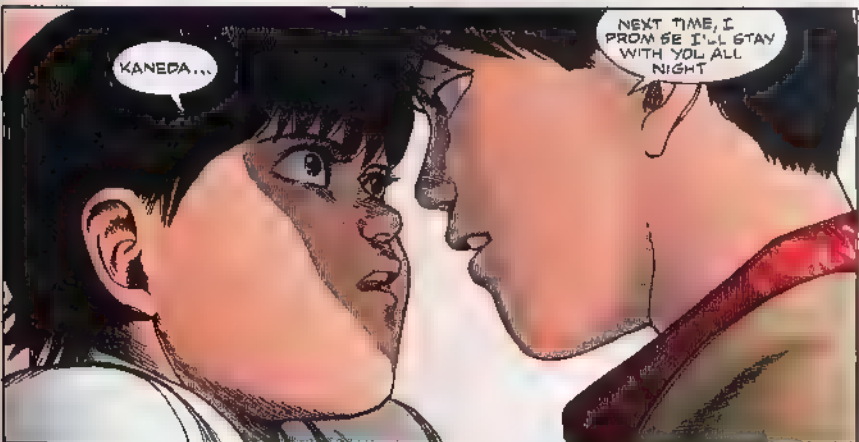
TETSUO'LL
BE LUNCH
MEAT BEFORE
YOU GET
ANYWHERE
NEAR
HIM!

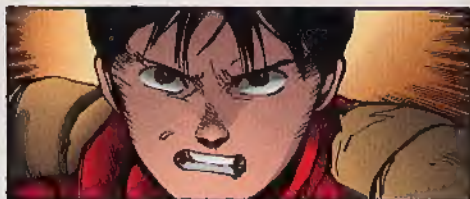


YOU THINK I'D
JUST STAND BY
WHILE YOU KILL
YOURSELF?!
I'LL NEVER LET
YOU DIE!









NEXT ISSUE: **RIDE TO REVENGE**



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with **LAURA BRADY**

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A boy called Tetsuo telekinetically punches a quarter mile hole in the moon, wreaking havoc on a cosmic scale. Joker and his motorcycle gang race their bikes to outrun a vicious tidal wave — in the city's subway tunnels. Young lovers Kay and Kaneda share a gentle first kiss before setting off for the violent overthrow of a ruthless dictator. And nameless special forces troops dive into icy waters in a desperate last ditch assault to preserve life as we know it on the planet we call Earth.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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I love um

I buy um

I preserve um